

Spring into Water Conservation



It's the perfect time of year for getting to household chores and to plan your outdoor gardens. Why not plan to save water and money at the same time?

If your local water utility offers incentives or in-home water audits, take advantage of these programs. Review your water bill and set water conservation goals.

Taking simple steps such as keeping drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool and insulating your water heater and water pipes so you waste less while waiting for hot water can add up to significant reduction in your water bill.

When hand washing dishes - use both sides of the sink: Presoak dishes in one side rather than letting water run continuously and rinse in the other side. Consider collecting the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables and reusing it to water houseplants and/or shrubs. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and you can save between 50 and 80 gallons of water.

Most people don't realize how much water and money they are wasting from dripping faucets. Although a drip is not a scientific measurement, the following table illustrates how these drips can add up.

If a leak has a continuous flow of:	It wastes the following number of gallons in:			
	Drops/ Minute	1 Day	1 Bill Period*	1 Year
5 drops in 30 seconds	10 dpm	0.8	48	292
10 drops in 30 seconds	20 dpm	1.6	96	584
15 drops in 30 seconds	30 dpm	2.4	144	876
20 drops in 30 seconds	40 dpm	3.2	192	1168
25 drops in 30 seconds	50 dpm	4	240	1460
30 drops in 30 seconds	60 dpm	4.8	288	1752
35 drops in 30 seconds	70 dpm	5.6	336	2044
40 drops in 30 seconds	80 dpm	6.4	384	2336
45 drops in 30 seconds	90 dpm	7.2	432	2628
50 drops in 30 seconds	100 dpm	8	480	2920
55 drops in 30 seconds	110 dpm	8.8	528	3212
60 drops in 30 seconds	120 dpm	9.6	576	3504

* Based on 60 days average per billing period; 365 days/year.

Source: Denver Water

Take the time to plan your gardens and landscaping so that they are not only beautiful and productive, but water efficient. Use the resources available to assist you with these endeavors:

- [Xeriscaping](#) -Denver Water
- [Water Wise Tips for Colorado Landscapes](#) – Colorado State University Extension
- [Water Conservation in the Vegetable Garden](#)– Colorado State University Extension
- [Water Conserving Gardening Guide](#) – H₂OUSE



Once your lawns and gardens are established, there are additional ways to conserve water and save money:

- Compost organic matter rather than using the garbage disposal - your gardens will flourish.
- Water between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. to avoid evaporation losses from hot and windy weather conditions.
- Water dry spots instead of the entire lawn.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden, to keep track of the time.
- Irrigate when footprints or mower tracks become visible and/or large areas of the lawn become blue-gray in color.
- Use dirty fish tank water to feed outdoor plants.
- Collect rainwater in a bucket for watering indoor plants.
- If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water drain to a flower bed, tree, or your lawn.

Together, we can make a difference in Colorado's water use without giving up any of life's pleasures.

Tips for E-Mails

- ☀ Catch water in a bucket or watering can while waiting for hot or cold water and add to house plants.
- ☀ Turn off the water while shaving, brushing your teeth, and lathering in the shower. Shave with a small amount of water in the sink rather than running water.
- ☀ Accept having a dirty car and a brown lawn during drought. If you must wash your car, use a car wash that recycles water instead of washing your car in the driveway. If that is not possible, wash your car on the lawn so you can simultaneously water your grass.
- ☀ Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubs or trees.